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The Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, Maryland) · Sat, Sep 5, 1925 · Page 16
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Ericsson Line Asks Bids On Construction Of Two New Steel Steamers.

The Baltimore and Philadelphia Steamboat Company, operated as the Ericsson Line between the two ports, sent out specifications yesterday for bids to build two steel steamers for the line. Among those asked for figures is the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation.

The addition of the two boats has been under consideration for more than two years, but the enlargement of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal being indefinite the matter was abandoned. Colonel Brown, engineer in charge of the Wilmington district, which embraces the canal, assures that by the time the steamers are ready for service there will be sufficient depth of water and 110 feet width.

The steamers to be built will be 245 feet long, 47 feet beam and will have a speed of 15 knots. There will be sleeping accommodations for 200 passengers and for 1,500 under unusual demand for trips. The boilers will be for fuel oil and the machinery is to be up to date.

The bids will be opened by President McDonald at his office in Philadelphia on September 21. The contract calls for delivery of the boats in time for service for the Sesquicentennial Exposition at Philadelphia next year.

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Aug 21, 2025

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